

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00805 310649Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

SS-15 AID-05 /066 W

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R 302100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6929

DEA HQS WASHDC

DEA NEW YORK REGIONAL OFFICE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0805

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PLS PASS DEA

FOR S/NM; DEA HQS EOIL/ANTONELLI; DEA NYRO FOR GRP 43;

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SNAR, PFOR

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY OF GOC UNDER SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ENRIQUE
MONTERO; DEA FILE: MICHAEL SANTANGELO (NADDIS 301349)

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 0141, (B) DEA 1270

1. IN REFTEL B, DEA'S NYRO REQUESTED STATUS REPORT ON
WILLINGNESS OF CHILEAN NATIONALS OSCAR POBLETE (NADDIS
165697) AND ENRIQUE MONTERO MARX TO TESTIFY IN NEW YORK IN
SANTANGELO CASE. DEA SANTIAGO HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT IN SERIES
OF MESSAGES, BUT EMBASSY NOW BELIEVES IT NECESSARY TO ALERT
DEPARTMENT AND DEA TO FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF MATTER AS IT
CONCERNS MONTERO.

2. MONTERO IS UNDER SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND
A CHILEAN AIR FORCE (RESERVE) COLONEL. HE IS OUR SINGLE MOST
IMPORTANT CONTACT IN GOC IN TERMS OF SUCCESS OF OUR NARCOTICS
PROGRAM AND IS IMPORTANT IN OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO USG
SUCH AS INTERNAL SECURITY, MILITARY LIAISON, ETC. AS WILL
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 00805 310649Z

BE RECALLED (SEE REFTEL A), MONTERO IS ANGRY WITH USG OVER
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE ATTEMPTED RETURN OF

CHILEAN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE SERVED VERY SHORT SENTENCES IN US AFTER EXPULSION FROM CHILE AT OUR REQUEST.

3. IN PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE BEFORE ENTERING GOC IN SEPTEMBER 1973, MONTERO HAD CONTACT WITH CERTAIN NARCOTICS CASES, WHICH IF BASIS FOR PRESENT INTEREST IN HAVING HIM TESTIFY. DEA SAIC FRANGULLIE, WHO IS NOW ON LEAVE IN US, INTERVIEWED MONTERO IN 1975 CONCERNING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON SANTANGELO CASE, BUT DID NOT ASK HIM DIRECTLY IF HE WOULD TESTIFY IN US. MONTERO WAS RELUCTANT TO GO INTO MATTER, AND SOMEWHAT EVASIVE ON ANSWERS. IT IS BEST JUDGMENT OF EMBASSY AND DEA OFFICIALS IN SANTIAGO THAT MONTERO, EVEN BEFORE RECENT PROBLEM OVER RETURN OF TRAFFICKERS, WOULD HAVE REFUSED TO TESTIFY IN PERSON. WE ARE LESS CERTAIN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE A DEPOSITION, BUT IN HIS PRESENT MOOD WE DOUBT HE WOULD DO SO.

4. DEPARTMENT, DEA AND AUSA NEW YORK MUST BE JUDGES OF IMPORTANCE OF TESTIMONY WHICH MONTERO MIGHT GIVE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE -- FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR LARGER NARCOTICS AND OTHER INTERESTS -- TO PRESS MONTERO NOW, IF EVER. HE NEEDS TIME TO COOL OFF. IF APPROACHED NOW, OR WHEN HE RETURNS IN FEBRUARY FROM PRESENT VACATION, WE DOUBT HE WILL COOPERATE. IN ANOTHER MONTH OR SO, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOUND HIM OUT, AND BACK OFF IF WE DRAW SPARKS. USG MAY ALREADY HAVE DONE SOME DAMAGE TO ITS OVERALL NARCOTICS OBJECTIVES IN CHILE OVER MATTER OF RETURN OF EXPELLED TRAFFICKERS. WE QUESTION WISDOM OF AGGRAVATING SITUATION.

5. RE POBLETE: DEA SANTIAGO HAS ALREADY POINTED OUT IN ITS TWX 6763 THAT EFFORTS BY US PROSECUTORS TO CONTACT POBLETE DIRECTLY, BYPASSING DEA SANTIAGO, HAVE HAD EFFECT OF MAKING HIM HOSTILE AND UNWILLING TO COOPERATE. DEA SANTIAGO OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IN SPORADIC CONTACT WITH POBLETE SINCE INCIDENT, AND BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN HIS DETERMINATION TO REFUSE TO TESTIFY IN THE US.

6. DEA SANTIAGO CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 00805 310649Z

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